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Morning Papers	..	9th August, 1937.
Evening Papers	..	9th August, 1937.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER 1937.

Food and Rent - All Houses - "A" Series (Table 1).

These indexes (with a base of 1000 in 1911 for the 6 capitals) for the towns of Queensland in the second quarter of 1937, were as follows :- Brisbane, 1426, Toowoomba, 1377, Rockhampton, 1343, Townsville, 1482, Bundaberg, 1287, Charters Towers, 1222, Warwick, 1261. The Brisbane index declined by 1.31 per cent. from March to June quarter and other towns to show decreases were - Toowoomba, 1.50 per cent.; Townsville, 0.34 per cent.; Charters Towers, 0.49 per cent.; and Warwick, 0.32 per cent.. In Rockhampton there was a very slight rise and Bundaberg index did not alter.

Compared with December quarter 1936, there was a decline in Brisbane of 0.35 per cent. but since June quarter 1936 there has been a rise of 7.46 per cent.. The lowest point reached by the "All Houses" Index in the depression years was in March Quarter 1933 when the Index number was 1199.

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) - "B" Series (Table 2).

Index numbers for the second quarter (base 1923-27 in the 6 capitals) were:- Brisbane, 818, Toowoomba, 814, Rockhampton, 806, Townsville, 876, Bundaberg, 752, Charters Towers, 729, Warwick, 707. Though there was a small rise (0.49 per cent. in Brisbane) in the Rent Index (for 4 and 5 roomed houses) between March and June quarters, it was not sufficient to counteract the decrease in the cost of Food and Grocery items. The percentage declines in the total index were :- Brisbane, 1.33, Toowoomba, 1.09, Rockhampton, 0.37, Bundaberg, 0.13, Charters Towers, 0.41, and Warwick, 0.42. There was no alteration in Townsville.

Compared with a year ago the increase in Brisbane has been 7.63 per cent..

"All Items" - "C" Series (Table 3).

The index numbers for the second quarter (base 1923-27 in the 6 capitals) were :- Brisbane, 833, Toowoomba, 842, Rockhampton, 839, Townsville, 882, Bundaberg, 808, Charters Towers, 820, Warwick, 776. Between March and June quarters 1937 this index showed only slight fluctuation. There was a decline of 0.36 per cent. in Brisbane and of 0.64 per cent. in Warwick. Small rises occurred in Rockhampton (0.12 per cent.), Townsville (0.11 per cent.), Bundaberg (0.25 per cent.), and Charters Towers (0.24 per cent.). There was no change in Toowoomba.

In Brisbane Food costs declined by 2.38 per cent. and this more than counterbalanced rises of 0.49 per cent. in Rent, 1.15 per cent. in Clothing, and 0.43 per cent. in the Miscellaneous Group of items.

In this quarter, the index for Brisbane was 0.60 per cent. higher than in the December quarter of 1936, 6.11 per cent. higher than the June quarter 1936, and 10.77 per cent. higher than the June quarter 1933, but it is still 9.16 per cent. below the average for the pre-depression year 1928. Food is 12 per cent. below 1928, rent 2 per cent. below, clothing 16½ per cent. below, and miscellaneous practically the same as 1928.

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement the present State Basic Wage, £3.18. 0 in Brisbane, is compared with the amounts required to purchase the same amount of commodities in the other Capitals according to the "A Series" index (first column), and according to the "C Series" index (second column). The third column shows the actual State Basic Wages, and the fourth the actual Commonwealth Basic Wages in the Capitals. All comparisons are according to the June Quarter 1937 index numbers.

Capital	Based on "All Houses" Index A Series	Based on "All Items" Index C Series	State Basic Wage a.	Commonwealth Basic Wage b.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	3.18. 0	3.18. 0	3.18. 0	3.13. 0
Sydney	4. 4. 4	4. 2. 9	3.11. 6	3.18. 0
Melbourne	4. 2. 1	4. 0.10	c.	3.16. 0
Adelaide	3.15.11	4. 0. 0	3. 9. 6	3.13. 0
Perth	3.19. 6	4. 2. 0	3.14.11	3.15. 0
Hobart	4. 2.10	4. 1. 8	c.	3.15. 0

- a. Current rates.
- b. Corresponding to June quarter index numbers.
- c. No State wage actually declared but follows Commonwealth Rates to a large extent.

The basic wages are supposed to provide for a family of a standard size which varies in different Courts. In Commonwealth awards, the family is man, wife and 2 children; in Queensland and South Australian awards, man, wife and 3 children; in Western Australia, man, wife, and 2 children; and in New South Wales, man, wife and 1 child, but child endowment of 5/- a week for each additional child is provided in that State.

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8th September, 1937.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

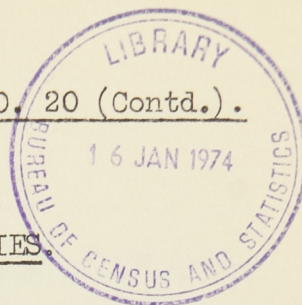


TABLE NO. 1. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (ALL HOUSES) - "A" SERIES

(Base = 1000 in 1911 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year 1928	QUARTERS						
		March 1931	June 1933	June 1936	Sept. 1936	Decr. 1936	March 1937	June 1937
Brisbane	1595	1343	1215	1327	1387	1431	1445	1426
Toowoomba	1458	1324	1188	1325	1313	1364	1398	1377
Rockhampton	1520	1392	1210	1319	1317	1340	1342	1343
Townsville	1781	1511	1382	1430	1436	1500	1487	1482
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	1251	1292	1287	1287
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	1571	1345	1210	1323	1369	1412	1432	1416
Charters Towers	1508	1318	1148	1231	1201	1222	1228	1222
Warwick	1435	1311	1186	1243	1225	1274	1265	1261

TABLE NO. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year 1928	QUARTERS						
		March 1931	June 1933	June 1936	Sept. 1936	Decr. 1936	March 1937	June 1937
Brisbane	901	760	692	760	787	814	829	818
Toowoomba	833	739	677	762	776	804	823	814
Rockhampton	858	791	684	752	754	759	809	806
Townsville	1047	904	807	843	848	883	876	876
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	725	753	753	752
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	892	764	691	758	780	806	828	819
Charters Towers	942	824	704	754	714	729	732	729
Warwick	841	759	686	720	696	728	710	707

TABLE NO. 3. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year 1928	QUARTERS						
		March 1931	June 1933	June 1936	Sept. 1936	Decr. 1936	March 1937	June 1937
Brisbane	917	814	752	785	814	828	836	833
Toowoomba	906	834	774	785	811	831	842	842
Rockhampton	903	824	753	793	806	808	838	839
Townsville	1023	928	853	849	870	884	881	882
Bundaberg	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	789	806	806	808
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	915	817	754	786	813	825	839	836
Charters Towers	925	839	764	809	801	815	818	820
Warwick	914	828	760	764	780	795	781	776

- NOTES:-
- (a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
- (b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.